



RESILIENT BRIDGEPORT
Bridgeport, CT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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Prepared For:



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1.0 Executive Summary

Resilient Bridgeport is a prototype for the region's coastal cities. It consists of a resilience strategy and pilot projects focused on reducing flood risk to homes, businesses and infrastructure in the South End of Bridgeport from chronic and acute flooding to foster long-term prosperity in the neighborhood.

As a result of Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, many homes and businesses in Bridgeport's South End were destroyed or permanently damaged by flood waters. In 2013, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launched Rebuild by Design, a design competition encouraging communities in Sandy-affected areas and around the country to create and submit implementable designs that will improve resilience while preparing for future climate change.

In 2014, HUD awarded \$10 million to the Connecticut Department of Housing (CTDOH) for Resilient Bridgeport as a result of the City's Rebuild by Design competition submission. The funds were designated to assess design conditions and develop a resiliency strategy. The Rebuild by Design Pilot Project prioritized critical stormwater management interventions including a Stormwater Park, a raised street and Johnson St. Extension to provide dry egress, decreased chronic and acute flooding, and public amenity.

In 2014, HUD also initiated the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC), which broadens federal support for resilience efforts to communities across the nation. In 2016, through NDRC, the CTDOH received an additional \$54 million in funding, primarily dedicated to additional pilot projects in Bridgeport's South End.

The NDRC Bridgeport Pilot Projects are to be completed by September 30, 2022:

1. Raised Resilience Corridor along University Avenue
2. Integrated Berm (or other surge protection)
3. Community Resilience Hub

With NDRC and RBD funding, as well as the support of federal, state, and local partners, Resilient Bridgeport has the opportunity to show how a comprehensive and multi-layered approach to building resilience can reduce risk and enhance quality of life in Bridgeport's South End.

This Community Engagement Plan (CEP) describes the intent, methods and expectations for work completed by the Resilient Bridgeport Public Engagement Team. The CEP will describe the role of the Public Engagement Team and outline how the team will foster and maintain open communication with the public.

The Public Engagement Team concentrates on proactively engaging with the public and stakeholders through a comprehensive outreach program that includes:

- Community Relations Management
- Media Relations Management
- Public Inquiries
- Public Outreach Notifications
- Website and Social Media
- Marketing Materials

2.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The principal agencies responsible for the Public Engagement Team are the Project Director, the CTDOH and the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Public Engagement Team in coordination with CTDOH is responsible for managing, planning, obtaining approvals, designing and scheduling all public engagement efforts of the Program. HUD provides oversight from a federal perspective with respect to funding and project management.

2.1 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination, and transform the way HUD does business.

2.2 CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING (CTDOH)

The CTDOH strengthens and revitalizes communities by promoting affordable housing opportunities. The CTDOH seeks to eliminate homelessness and to catalyze the creation and preservation of quality, affordable housing to meet the needs of all individuals and families statewide to ensure that Connecticut continues to be a great place to live and work.

The CTDOH works in concert with municipal leaders, public agencies, community groups, local housing authorities, and other housing developers in the planning and development of affordable homeownership and rental housing units, the preservation of existing multi-family housing developments, community revitalization and financial and other support for our most vulnerable residents through our funding and technical support programs. As the State's lead agency for all matters relating to housing, CTDOH provides leadership for all aspects of policy and planning relating to the development, redevelopment, preservation, maintenance and improvement of housing serving very low, low, and moderate income individuals and families. CTDOH is also responsible for overseeing compliance with applicable statutes, regulations and financial assistance agreements for funded activities through long-term program compliance monitoring.

2.3 WSP

WSP, one of the world's leading engineering and professional services consulting firms, provides services designed to transform the built environment and restore the natural one. The firm's expertise ranges from environmental remediation and urban planning, to engineering iconic buildings and designing sustainable transport networks, to developing the energy sources of the future and enabling new ways of extracting essential resources. Approximately 36,500 employees, including engineers, technicians, scientists, planners, surveyors, program and construction management professionals, as well as various environmental experts, work for this dynamic organization in more than 500 offices across 40 countries worldwide.

2.4 WAGGONNER & BALL

Waggonner Ball Architecture / Environment is a design and planning practice based in New Orleans, located where the Mississippi River meets the Gulf of Mexico. Waggonner & Ball designs environments and transformational strategies, from civic buildings to innovative district and regional plans in the

United States. Waggoner & Ball lead the Dutch/American team that created the Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan, with which the New Orleans region is shifting from fighting the water that surrounds it towards “living with water.”

2.5 YALE URBAN DESIGN WORKSHOP (YUDW)

Founded in 1992, by Alan Plattus, then Associate Dean and Professor at the Yale School of Architecture, the YUDW is a community design center based at the School of Architecture. Since its founding, the YUDW has worked with communities across the state of Connecticut and around the world, providing planning and design assistance on projects ranging from comprehensive plans, economic development strategies and community visions to the design of public spaces, streetscapes and individual community facilities. Clients include small towns, city neighborhoods, planning departments, Chambers of Commerce, community development corporations, citizen groups, and private developers. After a number of years on the Yale campus, the YUDW currently occupies a space on Chapel Street in New Haven’s Dwight neighborhood, two blocks from the School of Architecture.

In all its work, the YUDW is committed to an inclusive, community-based process, grounded in broad citizen participation and a vision of the design process as a tool for community organizing, empowerment, and capacity-building. A typical YUDW project may include design charrettes, focus groups, and town meetings, as well as more conventional means of program and project development. These projects are staffed mainly by current graduate professional students at the Yale School of Architecture supervised by faculty of the School, but often also include Yale College undergraduates, recent graduates of the School as full-time staff, faculty and students from Yale’s other professional schools (including the Law School, the School of Forestry and Environmental Science, the School of Management, the School of Public Health and the School of Art), as well as outside consultants and other local professionals.

2.6 ARCADIS

Arcadis has a rich history and was founded in 1888 in the Netherlands where it was created to reclaim peat land for agriculture and commerce. Today the company is an international leader in the fields of water, infrastructure, environment and buildings with more than 28,000 staff worldwide, but it hasn’t lost its roots to the country that falls or stands with good water and flood management.

Arcadis staff has unique experience to provide comprehensive services for water management and flood resiliency. Arcadis understands the complexities of coastal protection and ecosystem restoration – Arcadis has planned, designed and managed the construction of some of the largest projects in the world, including most recently in New Orleans, New York, Boston, Seoul, Goteborg, London, and of course, the Netherlands. Arcadis’ complete range of state-of-the-art resiliency services include:

- Sea level rise risk and vulnerability assessments
- Hydraulic and hydrologic modeling
- Wetland restoration and green infrastructure planning and design
- Urban waterfront redevelopment planning and design
- Critical infrastructure protection

2.7 GROUNDWORK BRIDGEPORT

Through its work to improve and beautify the city’s physical landscape, Groundwork Bridgeport (GWB) serves all those visiting, working, and living in Bridgeport by providing a setting for all to enjoy. The

organization directly serves youth in Bridgeport through its programs that provide opportunities to learn about the natural environment through job training activities.

Vision: A Bridgeport whose physical landscape is beautiful, whose parks and other open spaces are actively utilized, and whose residents are stewards of both.

Mission: To bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement, and management of the physical environment, by empowering people, businesses, and organizations to promote environmental, economic, and social well-being.

3.0 COMMUNITY RELATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Public Engagement Team in coordination with CTDOH will maintain a close relationship with the Bridgeport South End community. Community Relations Management includes all outreach efforts put forth to properly discuss project updates, milestones and activities with the public.

The Public Engagement Team seeks to maximize opportunities to engage the public and neighboring communities through regular and proactive communication. This is accomplished by providing a foundation for the project and brand awareness while understanding the public needs and resolving issues related to the project that impact the community.

3.1 ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS

The Engagement Team will work closely with the CTDOH and as directed CTDOH's Fifth Substantial Amendment to its CDBG-DR Action Plan, to form a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The CAC will comprise community leaders (e.g., advocates, city elected officials, residents) to serve as an advisory panel representing the interests of the local community throughout the design effort.

The TAC will comprise technical experts within the State Agencies Fostering Resilience (SAFR) Council, agencies of the State, departments of the City, and other key technical stakeholders that can advise and provide input towards design, and aid in targeting permit requirements, critical design decisions, and policy concerns associated with project design elements.

The Public Engagement Team will generate an initial list of candidates for review and revision by the Client and then conduct written and verbal communication with candidates to recruit CAC and TAC membership. The CAC and TAC will form a leadership base for current and future resilience work and will advise on community priorities.

The Public Engagement Team will also partner with Bridgeport's South End NRZ. A representative from the project will attend the monthly NRZ meeting and provide a brief project update and encourage NRZ attendees to participate in the project's public meetings and workshops.

3.2 VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Transparent and inclusive outreach to community groups that serve vulnerable and underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minority populations, persons with limited English proficiency, and persons with disabilities will be performed throughout the life of the Resilient Bridgeport project. Representatives from these communities will be encouraged to serve on the CAC assisting through identification of opportunities to engage the vulnerable populations living and working within the communities. All public hearings and meetings will be held in accessible locations within the project area. Contact information for the project team will be provided in advance of hearings and meetings for community members requiring special assistance.

3.3 CONSTANT CONTACT

The project's email distribution list is updated consistently and maintained by the Public Engagement Team through Constant Contact. The public can subscribe to the email distribution list via the project website, email or by signing up at a public event.

3.4 PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

The Public Engagement Team is responsible for initiating and maintaining communication with residents and organizations within and adjacent to the project area. Public meetings and workshops are a key component of the outreach efforts to keep the public informed and engaged with project activities. Public meetings and workshops provide the community with opportunities to participate in and provide suggestions and/or feedback during the planning and design process.

3.5 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

As part of the environmental process, a public scoping meeting will be held to present and discuss the Draft Scope of Work for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in late winter/early spring of 2018. This meeting may also serve as an opportunity to obtain public input on the purpose and need, preliminary design alternatives, and analysis methodologies.

The meeting will include a brief presentation followed by an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the Draft Scope of Work. These comments will be recorded.

At least two-weeks in advance of the meeting, legal notices will be published in local English and Spanish newspapers. These legal notices will include contact information should anyone require translation services at the meeting.

A 30-day comment period will begin once the Draft Scope of Work and Notice of Intent for the EIS is published. Links to access the documents will be provided on www.resilientbridgeport.com. To comment, the public is invited to speak on the record at the Public Scoping Meeting, email info@resilientbridgeport.com or send a letter to David Kooris, Director of Resilience, Department of Housing, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106. All comments must be received within the 30-day window to be included in the final EIS Scoping Document.

3.6 PUBLIC HEARINGS

During the Draft EIS (DEIS) comment period, a formal hearing will be held for the public to provide comments on the DEIS. These comments will be recorded and addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Those who do not wish to voice their comments publicly will be offered an opportunity to provide a private written or verbal comment at the meeting, or submit comments through the Resilient Bridgeport website or by mail to the Connecticut Department of Housing.

At least two-weeks in advance of the meeting, legal notices will be published in local English and Spanish newspapers. These legal notices will include contact information should anyone require translation services at the hearing.

3.7 DOOR-TO-DOOR

Door-to-door outreach efforts carried out by the Public Engagement Team are an essential way to maintain communication with those residing or working in Bridgeport's South End that may not have access to other means of notification. It is often the most effective way to contact local businesses and residents with important information. The Public Engagement Team will go out on foot to speak to residents or business managers about project updates, upcoming events or to leave door hangers with important project information.

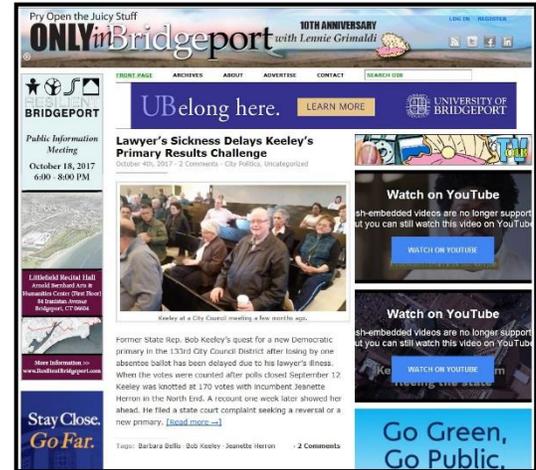
4.0 MEDIA RELATIONS MANAGEMENT

The Public Engagement Team in coordination with CTDOH will maintain a close relationship with the local news outlets. Such contact involves press releases, media alerts, advertising, email correspondences and periodic phone or in-person briefings.

Reporters from media outlets can be furnished with story ideas and press releases issues by the Public Engagement Team. Through these media relationships and coordinating efforts, newspaper articles and newscasts that relay the project's intended messages are produced for the public.

Popular local media sources for Bridgeport, CT include:

- Newspaper/Online
 - Only in Bridgeport
 - La Voz (Spanish)
 - CT Post
- Television/Online
 - WTNH
 - News 12
- Radio
 - WPKN
 - WNLK-WSTC
 - WNPR
 - Radio Cumbre (Spanish)



4.1 MEDIA MONITORING

The Public Engagement Team is responsible for continuously monitoring media outlets for any articles or news stories related to the project. A log will be created to keep track of this news stories and PDF copies of publications will be saved in the project files. When applicable, related news articles will be posted on the Resilient Bridgeport website.

4.2 PRESS RELEASES / MEDIA ALERTS

Press releases and media alerts will be prepared by the Public Engagement Team in coordination with CTDOH to announce project milestones, public meetings/hearings and/or other important project information on an as needed basis. Press releases will be issued to the media distribution list maintained by the Public Engagement Team.

4.3 ADVERTISING / LEGAL NOTICES

Advertising is reserved for promoting public meetings and workshops. The Public Engagement Team in coordination with CTDOH will determine if advertising is necessary, which outlets to advertise and what means.

Advertising can include:

- Public Service Announcement (PSA)
- Newspapers
- Online news outlets
- Local event calendars

Legal notices are drafted and placed in local newspapers (hard copy and online) in advance of public hearings. At least one English and Spanish news source must be included in the campaign. A disclaimer listing contact information for special assistance must be included in the notice.

4.4 MEDIA KITS

Media kits are informational packets created by the Public Engagement Team for media outlets and are on-hand at public meetings. Media kits compile all available information in one location for media to navigate content for key information to include in their coverage.

Media Kits include:

- Business card and contact information
- Table of Contents
- Press Release (if applicable)
- Hard copy of presentation
- Maps
- Handouts
- Glossary of Terms
- Fact Sheet
- Save-the-date for next meeting (if applicable)
- CD with all above content saved digitally

5.0 PUBLIC INQUIRIES

The Public Engagement Team is responsible for monitoring and managing all public inquiries received through the project website, email or verbal interaction. Timely responses to all project related inquiries will be prepared by the designated project team member based on the nature of the inquiry.

Inquiries submitted through the www.resilientbridgeport.com website are directed to the info@resilientbridgeport.com email account. Any correspondence received through this account will initiate an auto response “Thank you your email...” that informs the recipient that the project team has received their inquiry and it will be answered in a timely manner.

5.1 INQUIRY LOG

When an inquiry is received, it will be logged in the Resilient Bridgeport Inquiry Log, a living excel database. Each inquiry logged will include:

- Inquiry identification number
- Topic Category
- Date received
- Inquirer’s name and contact information
- Inquiry question in as much detail as possible
- Date of response
- Name of responder
- Final response

5.2 INQUIRY PROCESS

Once logged, an inquiry response form will be completed and saved with the inquiry ID number. This document will contain all information relating to the inquiry, including the draft response to be approved internally by the Public Engagement Team, then CTDOH. Once approved, the response will be issues through the info@resilientbridgeport.com email account. See example Public Inquiry Response Form at right.



The image shows a sample 'Public Inquiry Response Form' for Resilient Bridgeport. The form includes a header with the organization's name, address (7 Middle Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604), website (www.resilientbridgeport.com), and email (info@resilientbridgeport.com). It also features logos for Bridgeport and the Connecticut Department of Health (CTDOH). The form contains fields for 'Date Received', 'Name', 'Email', 'Address', 'City', 'Zip Code', and 'Phone'. Below these fields is a section for the inquiry, followed by a 'Reply:' section with a pre-filled 'Dear xx,' and a 'Thank you for your interest in Resilient Bridgeport.' message. The form concludes with a signature line for the Resilient Bridgeport Team and a table for internal review and approval.

Reviewer	Approved	Date
WSP		
DOH		

6.0 PUBLIC OUTREACH NOTIFICATIONS

Public outreach notifications will be developed by the Public Engagement Team in coordination with CTDOH and are distributed through the Constant Contact email distribution list, door-to-door outreach and in person at public events.

As needed, public outreach notifications will be translated and distributed in Spanish.

6.1 PUBLIC NOTICES

Public notices will be distributed to the email distribution list on a regular basis. Public notices include:

- Project Updates (Resilient Bridgeport Project distribution list)
- Meeting Announcements (Resilient Bridgeport Project distribution list)
- CAC Updates (Committee Members only)
- TAC Updates (Committee Members only)

6.2 DOOR HANGERS

Door hangers will be created in advance of public meetings to be distributed to Bridgeport's South End residents and businesses. The Public Engagement Team will perform door-to-door outreach in the South End to notify residents and businesses of upcoming public events.

7.0 WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA

The Public Engagement Team in coordination with CTDOH is responsible for maintaining two-way communication with key stakeholders and the general public through the project website, www.ResilientBridgeport.com, and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

7.1 WEBSITE

The project website www.resilientbridgeport.com, developed during the project's RBD phase will be updated on an as needed basis. The website is a digital, user-friendly public information outlet and will be used as a single-source location to archive all public project materials.

The following content is presented on the website:

- An overview, history, issues and opportunities of the project and participants (team)
- Project news
- Project timeline
- Archive of all public meeting materials (RBD and NDR)
- Public event information
- Links to project social media accounts
- Links to related websites including CT Dept. of Housing
- Comment submission form
- Sign-up to join project email distribution list
- Contact information

7.2 SOCIAL MEDIA

The Public Engagement Team will continue to use the Resilient Bridgeport social media accounts developed during the Rebuild by Design phase of the project. This includes the project Facebook account @resilientbridgeport and Twitter account @ResilientBPCT. These outlets will be used to distribute accurate and timely information to a broader audience.

Regular updates will be posted for the following:

- Project news
- Notice of public events
- Event photos
- Links to project website

The Public Engagement Team will also use Facebook Live to broadcast public meetings as appropriate. Additional related content, such as news articles or posts by Rebuild By Design may also be posted to the Resilient Bridgeport social media accounts as applicable.

A YouTube account is used to upload video content to the project website when appropriate. This may include video footage of public meetings.

These postings are completed on an as needed basis and in a consistent, expository style. Because all users of the social media accounts must consider its associated risks, including the conflation of personal and professional communications, spreading malware, disclosing sensitive information, and responding to crisis, only one member of the Public Engagement Team is responsible for all social media postings.

Appendix A – PUBLIC MEETING #1 MEETING NOTES

Public Information Meeting October 18, 2017 6-8 PM Littlefield Recital Hall

Attendance:

41 signed in – note some did not choose to sign in

Public Comments:

Goals and Objectives:

Which of these is most important? What other objectives do you see for your neighborhood?

- “Local job creation”
- “#1 and #4”
- “How do you measure health? Are measures in place?”
- “Safe connections to downtown”
- “Divide between economic classes”
- “Retail not safe to and desirable to residents”
- “Concerned about raising streets on historic homes”
- “Effect of standing water on insect population”
- “Show the Seaside Village pilot at next meeting”
- “Transportation connections to downtown and train station”
- “Strategies used by other states to assist flood insurance cost”
- “Agree- especially on #1- protection from flooding. I think this area is becoming more resilient.”

How did Hurricane Sandy Affect You?

- “6 feet of water in basement cracked floor foundation”
- “Basement flooded- 247 Atlantic Street”
- “IRENE 150k in flood damage. SANDY 1m in flood damage- 285 Lafayette Street”
- “Transportation to get to work, hospitals, nursing homes”
- “4 feet of basement water- Seaside Village”
- “Rev Clayton- Broad/Gregory out of building since Sandy. Also chronic flooding.”
- “Basement filled with water. House is 150 years old. Destroyed pointing on field stone foundation. Underground water shift under basement floor. Damage going on to present day!”

Resilience Hub Types:

- “Satellite Phone Connection”
- “Emergency Response Brigade Center (neighborhood based)”
- “I’d like to see the design center/resilience center be focused on collecting the data for subsidence and groundwater as outlined by Roelof Stroman from Deltares in Netherlands. I’d like this center to be a community driven data collection center.”

Advertising:

Only in Bridgeport Website- Ran online ads October 4-18th (unlimited impressions)

WTNH Website- Three online ads ran October 4-18th for 500k impressions (193 people clicked)

La Voz- ¼ page print ad October 13th

WPKN- PSAs running week before and week of meeting

Groundworks Bridgeport canvased homes and businesses in the South End with door hangers

Appendix B - TAC/CAC ROUND #1 MEETING NOTES

Bridgeport NDR - TAC Meeting Notes

November 2, 2017

Ezequiel Santiago (House District 130) brought up a recent/ongoing project, the Thermal Loop, and asked if this project is being considered in coordination with the work of this project. T. Jost noted that the NDR project is collaborating with the Thermal Loop project and that it will impact our ability to implement and/or leverage certain opportunities. The West Side Development Plan is ongoing and collaboration will continue as this project advances.

James O'Donnell (CIRCA) suggested that splash over management be considered, and the project team agreed that this is a major consideration as part of the NDR efforts.

An important step, in support of the EIS is to determine the difference between organizations that are "participating" (actively contributing to the process), versus those who are "cooperating" (kept in the loop of major advancements). This should be decided at, or prior to the next meeting.

As development occurs in the project area, dry egress and access to parcels should be a major consideration for safe development.

Martha Klimas (Port Authority) indicated that a major challenge to be considered, especially at the northern extent of the project area, are the viaducts, when designing new facilities. It was noted that roads cannot be raised in the area due to low vertical clearance of the viaducts, and this is a problem along much of the rail line. The Port Authority is considering, and likely will ultimately raise the docks to provide emergency egress onto the rail platform. This will allow emergency access to the train and bus station from existing walkways. It was noted that flooding often occurs at elevations 12-14, and Water Street is currently at elevation 8. Anything new that is constructed should be at a level at least 1 foot above minimum flood level. The dock is being raised from level 8 to level 13.

Jeff Caiola (CTDEEP) indicated that specific attention will need to be paid to the selection of materials used. Coordination will be required with different entities based on the material used, such as using fill versus concrete. Some materials will likely require dam safety approval from the DEEP. Fairfield recently obtained approval for certain materials and can be used as an example moving forward.

PSE&G is proceeding based on 500-year flood zones plus 1 foot. Coastal Permitting and Public Access is being addressed through a new flood protection structure. The development at 60 Main has associated fills and could be tied into PSE&G's plans. Consideration should be given to these plans to determine if there is a difference in standards being used when tying in the NDR work to the work being done by PSE&G. 60 Main is depending upon the resiliency improvements being made by CSE&G and this project.

Jon Urquidi (City of Bridgeport) inquired as to how roads would be tied back into the existing network if they were to be raised.

Major flood events occur along the coastline, and breakwater walls were only rebuilt to pre-Sandy standards. Often these walls are under water at king tide. This means that during storms that NDR is designing for, the breakwater walls will be underwater. An Army Corps study indicated that a study would cost approximately \$3 million, last 3 years, and could be no more than 3 inches thick. Similar to Staten Island, breakwaters could be used as a component of the system and could be augmented or

adaptable over time. Breakwater walls could be used to reduce wave levels along the coast. Project team will reach out to the Army Corps for a better understanding.

Jeff Caiola (CTDEEP) proposed a “living shoreline” component to the project, tying in an educational component to involve community youth. UConn CIRCA has a living shorelines program and would have interest in integrating in Bridgeport.

Todd Levine (SHPO) suggested a pilot program for Historic Building/Preservation retrofit. The park is a designated on the historic registry and options should be considered for mitigation and avoidance of impacts to the park.

A major consideration moving forward are legal aspects of the project. There will likely be an overlap of federal, state, local, and private land being impacted, with easements to consider. This may include the necessity for public access on private property for maintenance obligations. Much of the ownership and maintenance will fall on the City, including berms, walls, etc. T. Jost indicated that getting peer-reviewers and cost estimators on board early will help avoid potential conflicts near the end of the project.

Bridgeport NDR - CAC Meeting Notes

November 2, 2017

An important consideration is the possible presence of cemeteries within the project area. There are potential remains of a Native American burial ground on the Southern end of Main Street, as well as “Walter’s Memorial” a “missing cemetery” and potential remains of a moved cemetery. Members of the CAC believed that there is a chance that construction could unearth unmarked cemeteries. The project team noted that an archeological monitor could be used, if necessary.

There are some concerns regarding the progress of Marina Village, regarding delays and funding. The primary concern is the impact of the Village on this work if there are more delays. D. Kooris indicated that the two projects are dependent upon one another and there is direct coordination as new funding and development/community desires come together. The recent passing of a state budget will help resolve these issues, as allocation of Phase 2 funding was on hold per the state budget issue. It was noted that use of funding is on a strict timeline and that an extension due to delays would be unlikely to be granted and would require an act of Congress.

Additionally, the EIS that was completed included the storm water components of the Village project. There was concern regarding potential construction impacts, such as dust, and if this was taken into consideration. The project team noted that this was considered during the EIS as well.

Coordination between PSE&G and this project is an important component as the two projects impact one another. D. Kooris noted that the project team is meeting with them regularly and there is a desire to leverage both, for the betterment of both, and added that most stakeholders that are involved have a forward-looking approach to coastal resiliency.

It was noted that an important access of this project that should be considered is improved water access for the community. There is potential to expand the Barnum Ave cultural corridor to establish spaces for bikes, green space, etc. D. Kooris noted that the City has funding to extend the greenway. Members of the public noted they have not heard much, but this project could provide a “kick” to expand public access in the area.

A major Community Involvement component of this project is the Resiliency Hub. Members of the CAC agreed that this hub should be both a practical and educational hub located in the South End. Specifically, it could function as both a shelter and an educational tool for environmental-human relationships.

Specifics were requested as to the exact locations of where the berms will be constructed. D. Kooris noted that there are two overarching categories. One category includes construction further inland that could likely be located between the residential neighborhoods and power infrastructure. The other could be located closer to the water, but would likely impact privately owned property. Locating the berms further east, closer to PSE&G would likely be more beneficial, but would also be more difficult. Locations will be determined in subsequent phases of work and feasibility, benefits, ease, and cost efficiency will be tested and demonstrated.

There was community belief that PSE&G had committed to provide water access through their work. However, D. Kooris noted that commitment was to discuss water access and reuse only, and no access was committed, and is unlikely. However, there are significant opportunities as part of this work to improve the public realm.

Members of the CAC were interested in what the final project would look like in the community. The project team noted that designs have not yet progressed and will emerge once preferred alignments are determined. 30% designs, scheduled for Fall 2018, may include renderings. In the future, there will be some sort of visualization simulation in addition to impact modeling. The CAC inquired as to potential impacts and mitigation of impacts. D. Kooris noted that coastal remediation is different than inland bodies of water in that there will be minimal displacing of water based on volume and there are not as many barriers to landscape modification. Additionally, it was noted that visual design of the structures would vary based on elevation and height, and efforts will be taken to match design to the surrounding community.

A CAC member asked what the protection elevation goal is for the project. The project team noted that there are three main factors that provide input. 1) Base flood elevation standards (i.e. FEMA 100-year, 1%), 2) sea level rise within project lifespan (current projections go out 30 years, but the project is meant to last longer), and 3) what type of waves are we building for/how high? (i.e. are walls constructed to keep waves out, or lower walls that allow some water over, but is managed through other means). The answer is the elevation goal will range from 20 feet when close to the edge of the water to 15-20 feet when further inland. Other measures for consideration include breakwater and reefs to mitigate wave impacts.

Members of the CAC were asked to consider additional community representatives that should be considered for inclusion on the CAC. One member indicated that there is a strong gardening community in the South End that may desire representation. CAC members were invited to encourage constituents and members of the public to attend public meetings.

Appendix C - CAC ROUND #2 MEETING NOTES

JOB TITLE	Resilient Bridgeport – NDR Project
PROJECT NUMBER	52829
DATE	05 December 2017
TIME	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
VENUE	7 Middle Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604
SUBJECT	Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting #2
CLIENT	Connecticut Department of Housing
PRESENT	David Kooris (CTDOH), Thomas Jost (WSP), Kevin Maddox (WSP), Dan Kennedy (WSP), Megan Savage (WSP), Bonnie Torres (WSP), Andrei Harwell (YUDW), Joseph Marrone (Arcadis), Bishop Theodore T. Plummer, Allen Ristz, Lydia Silvas, Michon White-Bernard, Bishop John C. White, Tracey Criss, Liz Torres, Ed Lavernoich, Vince Santilli, Mickey Herbert, Kathy Maher, Greg Breland, Ed Adams, Carl McCluster
DISTRIBUTION	NDR Team

ACTION

INTRODUCTIONS	
<p>David Kooris informed the committee there were two main items the team wanted out of today's meeting, support and feedback. David explained that he would walk the CAC through the presentation and ask for feedback and input.</p> <p>Megan Savage explained how public involvement was reaching out to the community to inform of the public meetings. Megan asked for further suggestions on how to reach out. The four Churches in the neighborhood offered to announce the meetings in Church or in their newsletters. The door hangers were shown and the reaction was positive.</p>	<p>Megan will send a brief write-up describing the public meeting to the church groups for printing in their weekly bulletin. DONE</p> <p>WSP to obtain the list of new Council members from the City and invite them to join the CAC.</p>
COMMENTS, QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CAC	
<p>How big of an audience are we expecting and how big will the screen be? It was expressed that there was trouble seeing the screen.</p>	<p>Boards will be displayed at the back of the room and copies of the PPT will be available at each of the tables.</p>
<p>What is the objective of the upcoming public meeting?</p>	

ACTION

What percent of people would this meeting be new to? Answer: Tom advised that the shift of change of phase could result in new people attending.	
Concern was expressed whether someone new attending would understand the presentation without prior knowledge of the project.	
Suggested the team present in plain language so that the community can relate. "Protect & Connect." How does this project provide safety from the water, yet connect them to the water?	
Questioned whether the raising of the walkways is ruining the community. Would like to see why raising the walkways helps instead of hurts. CAC would like to see a visual of this.	These visuals will be part of the breakout sessions. Copies will be available on the tables.
Concern of how much voice will the community have with the design being done. CAC agrees the more the community has a say the more comfortable they will be.	
Keeping green clean is a great idea, however, who will take care of and maintain the green?	
Suggested team do research and present impacts to each connecting community at the meeting. How do other projects effect this one?	
CAC would like team to make statement early in the meeting about future meeting dates if possible.	
What percentage of jobs will this project produce? It was discussed that this information may not be available until down the line as it is too early in the project to know.	
Will this be locally, federally, or state monitored? Project will be audited by the Federal Government.	
CAC should be added to the agenda each time.	Team will announce the CAC's presence at the public meeting without using names and will make a list available to those who want it.
CAC would like to see this linked to bigger projects. Incorporating comments and suggestions from previous meetings. Explain why we modified design based upon community input. Community wants to have a sense that they have a presence and an impact on this project. Being actively involved in the process is rewarding.	
Suggested the team helps to show the community that receiving the \$50 million in funding is a positive and not a threat. Getting the community on board will help with participation and understanding of the project.	

ACTION

There have people panicked thinking that they will somehow be trapped by a “wall” if that is what is decided upon when in design.	
BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
Three themes for the breakout sessions: Neighborhood and Community Development Connections Public Realm Improvements Resilience Hub	

Appendix D – PUBLIC MEETING #2 MEETING NOTES

**Resilient Bridgeport
Public Information Meeting & Workshop
December 12, 2017 5:30-7:30 PM
New Vision International Ministries
130 Gregory Street, Bridgeport, CT 06044**

Meeting Attendance:

40 signed in

Public Comments:

How did you hear about this meeting?

- On email distribution list
- Facebook
- Door Hanger
- NRZ
- Church bulletin

Connections:

- Connection to Downtown, waterfront and multi-modal transportation system should be enhanced
 - Neighborhood too distinct from Downtown and from Seaside Park
 - Sidewalks are in disrepair
 - Did they say anything about bikes?
 - Too much congestion on local roads; exacerbated by on-street parking
 - Paths in Seaside Park and along waterfront should be integrated into the neighborhood pedestrian network and expanded by whatever flood risk reduction infrastructure is built
- South End needs a gateway
 - Entrances to neighborhood under highway and railroad are bleak
 - Land uses in transportation corridor zone not friendly to walking
- Public infrastructure could enhance community connectivity
 - More playgrounds needed
 - More services in the South End- Community and/or Emergency Center

Neighborhood Development:

- Significant opportunities to bring new businesses and residents to neighborhood without compromising neighborhood character and supporting local goals
 - Broad and Lafayette Streets provide greatest redevelopment sites
 - Reuse of abandoned factories would convert current non-productive and blighted eyesores into something providing value for neighborhood
 - Residential could be appropriate
 - Residential development should include efficiencies to support UB students
 - Residential development should take advantage of the high rents that could be achieved with water views
 - Another 1,000 housing units would bring vitality to the neighborhood and downtown
 - 60 Main Street is an early opportunity if flood risk can be reduced
 - Commercial could be appropriate

- UB students currently have to go to Trumbull Mall for shopping
- Restaurants would be perfect given University and waterfront
- 30 University and sites like that near park would be great restaurant sites but that site is a cautionary tale since restaurants there keep failing
- Boathouse in Seaside Park could be great destination restaurant
- Development policy doesn't seem to be effectively enforced
- Greater density is ok as long as the style and scale doesn't detract from neighborhood's historic character.
- Some land should be reserved for water management and leveraged as a community asset
 - Stormwater parks and retention areas could provide benefit during flood events and year round
 - Rain gardens integrated into development could bring park-like feel into neighborhood
 - Look to low-lying points in neighborhood for new pocket parks that could hold water during rain events

Public Realm Improvements:

- Seaside Park needs to be a bigger part of South End identity
 - Most travel through the arch to enter the park; all three entrances are important; Broad/Main and Iranistan entrances should be improved
 - If you hired a branding firm, the brand for Bridgeport would be "It's the Park City"
 - There's currently no public location that gives an elevated vantage point where you can see the breadth of the park; an elevated spot in the park could be great for stargazing and interacting with nature
 - Seaside should be the anchor of an outdoor recreation lifestyle in South End
- More and better managed street trees should permeate the South End, bringing the Park into the neighborhood
- Floodwalls or other flood risk reduction infrastructure should include public art and new public spaces
- Investment in public realm should be limited to those areas of the flood risk reduction infrastructure that touch the community
- More public activities and programming necessary for new public spaces

Resilience Hub:

- Could be used to bring energy to the area under I-95
- Stand-alone building
- Leveraged for broad community uses
 - Information
 - Learning
 - place to go for emergency
 - healthcare
 - engineering and design
- Engage students
 - Youth staffing
 - Volunteer/paid program for youth
 - Use students for data collection
 - STEM program with students
 - Afterschool program for children
- Senior Citizen's Center
- Urban Agriculture
 - Link to strong network of existing community gardens

- Expand existing resources with a community farm

Facebook Live Metrics:

- POST
 - 434 People Reached
 - 184 Unique Viewers
 - 19 Clicked to play (the remaining 179 viewed when auto-played in feed)
 - 18 Likes/Reactions
 - Top Audience: Men, 65+
- VIDEO
 - 8 Live viewers
 - 198 Total video views
 - 143 Total minutes viewed
 - 76 10-second views
 - 0:24 Average time watched
- SHARES
 - Bridgeport In the Know
 - 139 Views
 - 6 Likes/Reactions
 - 0:15 Average watch time

Meeting Advertising:

- Only in Bridgeport Website- Ran online ads Nov. 28-Dec. 12 (unlimited impressions)
- La Voz- ¼ page print ad December 8th
- WPKN- PSAs running week before and week of meeting
- Groundwork Bridgeport canvased homes and businesses in the South End with door hangers
- Posted Public Meeting notice on event calendars
 - WPKN
 - MetroCOG
 - News 12
 - News Channel 8
 - The Bridgeport News